

# SOCIETY

**S**OOCIETY is preparing to doff the gay plumage of festivity, which usually accompanies the Epiphany tide and don the somber sack-cloth of penance which religion and custom prescribe for the Lenten period. It will turn its thoughts from pleasure to the consideration of the eternal truths which dominate the workings of human life. Jaded energies and sated appetites for the fleeting joys of the social whirl make the task a welcome one.

A little denial and abstinence sweetens the coarsest and blackest of bread, say the peasants of Europe. With Easter will dawn a new appreciation of gladness, a new enjoyment of healthy amusement, and, with the spring resurrection of nature, will come a new note in the Alleluia whiel for forty days and nights is forbidden by the church.

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls this year on the 17th of February. In the olden times, when men were more demonstrative in their religious life, ashes were distributed among the penitents, who clothed themselves in the rough garments peculiar to the state of penance and underwent long retreats in the monasteries and brotherhoods of medieval Europe. All material interests were smothered, so to speak, to allow the preparation for the contemplation of the Christian drama, which lasts from Palm Sunday through Holy Week to Easter Day.

## LETTER OF FAST IN VOGUE.

Today the letter of the fast is in vogue, if not the spirit. Society finds Lent a convenient time for a partial recuperation from the fatigues of the mid-year festal occasions. Physical needs are listened to and a season of rest means worlds for the preservation of the youth and bloom of even the debutante. So the fair penitent wears the sober black or gray which goes so well with the bunch of Parma violets, as much a part of Lent as the Penitential Office itself, and in the solemn quiet of daily evensong listens, sweetly submissive, to the voice of that spiritual nature which has been more or less unheeded in the other months of the year.

## ENTER THE LENTEN GIRL.

Now enters the "Lenten girl." She is more sedate than her sister, the summer girl, and flourishes for about the same number of days. Her ideal is the happier young curate in shovel hat and red cheeks. Devotion and painfully frequent attendance at multiplied church services are her weapons of attack.

Forgotten are the heroes of the past winter, the military man, "Jolly Jack Tar," and Beau Brummel. Gorgeous uniforms have lost all attraction for her, and she listens with an absent air to the yarns he spins of the mighty part he has taken in "battles fought and victories won." Jack's adventures and Beau Brummel's latest stunt alike are unavailing—her mind is on higher things.

In their place reigns the assistant at St. Ignatius or some other ritualistic church, for it is noticed that the Lenten girl prefers the "high churchman." Perhaps the reason for this is that he is, as a rule, an advocate of celibacy, and it adds zest to the endeavor to know he is thus rather unattainable. Mission work, lectures on church history, sewing, and kindergarten classes occupy the place of tea, ball, and german.

When Easter glows upon the gloom of Lent and society begins the ni careme round of gaiety, what of the curates then? Alas, the "Lenten girl" is no more. In her stead is the stately Easter lily, beautiful to look at, but "a creature far too bright and good for human nature's daily food," and although somewhat unsophisticated, the clerical moth has ideals and purposes too noble to be scorched at the flicker of a social butterfly's fancy.

## THIS IS VALENTINE DAY.

It is unfortunate that the day which honors Valentine as its patron saint should fall on Sunday this year. Valentine parties are a growing custom, and the observance of the vigil eve instead of the feast itself is unsatisfactory.

By a peculiar coincidence, this is "Love" Sunday, or Quinquagesima Sunday also, and while secular festivities are not permissible, the liturgy of the church for the day contains frequent reminders of the universal acceptance of love.

The gospel for the day, a portion of the thirteenth chapter of Corinthians, beginning, "Charity suffereth long and is kind," has been called the finest example of poetical prose in the history of literature, and St. Valentine, the Christian successor of the pagan Cupid, should be grateful to the church for thus assisting him in the pleasant duty of promoting the interests of the little blind god.

## PRESENTATION OF "CANDIDA."

The Lenten canon which bars attendance at the theater will be temporarily abandoned on next Friday in favor of the canon of kindness which is apropos in all seasons of the year. The strictest religious need have no compunction in attending the benefit performance of Bernard Shaw's notable New York success, "Candida," at the Lafayette next Friday at 4:15 o'clock.

The performance promises to be an especially brilliant social event, as many prominent people have signified their intention to be present. The proceeds will be devoted to the Firemen's Relief Association of Washington and the Citizens' Relief Association of this city. Through the kindness of Miss Barney, who has assumed the entire expense, all the receipts will be available for their laudable purposes.

## Teas and Receptions.

Miss Shepherd, of 1447 Massachusetts Avenue, has cards out for a small tea on Tuesday afternoon.

Mrs. George H. La Fetra, Mrs. Edwin S. La Fetra, Mrs. C. A. Cox, of Philadelphia, Mrs. Robert E. Doan, Miss Hupp, the Misses Livingston, Miss Marshall and Miss Willis will be at home at the La Fetra tomorrow evening from 8 to 10 o'clock. They will be assisted by Mrs. Richard Kingsman, Mrs. Henry Baker, Mrs. Stacy Bryant, Mrs. G. M. Brumbaugh, Mrs. W. S. Dewhurst, Mrs. J. Finney Engle, Miss Lillian Carr, Miss Narcissa Smith and Miss Stover.

The Alpha-Omega Fraternity of Columbian University will give a reception tomorrow evening at the university building.

Dr. and Mrs. Gallagher and the faculty of the National Training School, which includes Rust Hall and Sibley Hospital, were at home Friday afternoon and evening to large numbers of their friends and those especially interested in the large work done by this institution. They were assisted in receiving by the executive committee of the school. The beautiful parlors and chapel were decorated with cut flowers, and several selections were contributed on the large organ and piano by Miss Thayer and Miss Bright.

Mrs. Fred Dennett, of 1306 S street, gave a musicale tea yesterday afternoon from 4 to 7 o'clock in honor of Mrs. Hogg, wife of Representative Hogg, Col. and Mrs. Oldberg, and Mrs. Spalding, wife of Representative Spalding. Mrs. Dennett was assisted by Mrs. John P. Edwards, Mrs. A. B. Brown, Mrs. McLarn, Mrs. Robinson, Mrs. Byrne, Miss Lapray, Miss Redway, Miss Brown and

Miss North. Musical selections were given in the course of the afternoon by Mrs. Oldberg, Miss Daly, Miss Veitch, Mrs. McHarg, Mr. Claubaugh, Mr. Hoover, and Mr. Campbell. The rooms were prettily decorated with orchids, pink carnations and ferns.

Mrs. Robert B. Armstrong, wife of the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, gave a tea in honor of Miss Shaw, daughter of the Secretary of the Treasury, yesterday afternoon from 4 to 7 o'clock. Mrs. Armstrong was assisted by Miss Earle, of New York; Miss West, of Des Moines, Iowa; Miss Clark, daughter of Senator Clark, of Wyoming; Miss Irma Shaw, Miss Constance Leupp, Miss Kathleen Leupp, Mrs. Edward Damm, Miss Hull and Mrs. John Hull. The decorations were in pink and white.

## Weddings—Engagements

An interesting event on Shrove Tuesday will be the marriage of Miss Sue Matthews, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William Baynham Matthews, and James Harwood Graves. The ceremony will take place in St. Andrew's Church. The Rev. Ethebert Talbot, Bishop of Central Pennsylvania, will read the marriage service. He will be assisted by the Rev. John Woods Elliott, of Baltimore.

The bride will have but one attendant, Miss Louise Howard Randolph. Emery Graves, of New York, will serve as best man, and the ushers will include William B. Matthews, Wallace D. McLean, Frank Sprigg Perry, and William B. Todd.

Miss Mabel Helen King and Frederick Wilhelm von Dachenhausen will be married at Saint Andrew's church on Mon-



Miss Anna Ewing Cockrell, Daughter of the Missouri Senator.

Miss Anna Ewing Cockrell, daughter of Senator Cockrell, a debutante of last season, is one of the most charming of the young women in official circles. Since the marriage of her sister, Mrs. Gallaudet, who enjoyed the distinction of being one of the most popular young women in Washington, she has presided

over the home of her father with much dignity and grace, and has won an enviable reputation among the hostesses of the city. Miss Cockrell has inherited the beauty of her mother, who was noted among the handsome women both in the West and at the nation's capital.

day evening. The rector, the Rev. George Colbert Carter, will read the marriage office. The bride-elect is well known in Washington. Her father, Prof. Harry King, is a member of the faculty of the Columbian University and at present is constructing engineer.

The von Dachenhausen family is of the old German aristocracy, being created Friherren in feudal times. Mr. von Dachenhausen and his bride will spend several months in Europe, touring most of the prominent cities on the continent.

Mr. and Mrs. George H. O'Connor, whose marriage took place recently, will be at home tomorrow, from 4 to 7 o'clock, with Mrs. John J. Higgins, at 636 East Capitol Street. Mrs. E. M. O'Connor and Miss O'Connor will assist. No cards have been issued for the reception.

O. P. M. Brown, of Washington, and Miss George King, of Omaha, were married in the Church of Corpus

Christi, Chicago, on February 8. Mr. and Mrs. Brown will be glad to receive friends at their home on Florida Avenue, February 24, from 8 to 11 o'clock.

Mrs. Laura E. Thornburgh, of Knoxville, Tenn., announces the engagement of her daughter, Elizabeth, to John D. Sullivan, of Washington. The wedding will take place shortly after Easter.

## Dances.

John T. Devine, proprietor of the Shoreham, will give a Mardi Gras dance for the young people of the hotel on Tuesday evening.

At the assembly hall, which takes place tomorrow evening at the New Willard, Mrs. Leonard Wood will receive for the committee. The cotillion will be led by George Howard.

Mrs. John R. McLean entertaining at a small dance at her home in



Miss Katharine Cullom Ridgely, Daughter of the Comptroller of the Currency.

Miss Katharine Cullom Ridgely, for whom her father, William Barrett Ridgely, Comptroller of the Currency, will give a large dance on Tuesday evening at Rauscher's, is one of the most fortunate of the season's debutantes, having had an opportunity to make her debut twice. She was first introduced to society in her old home, Chicago, by her aunt, Mrs. William A. Vincent, and in January her grandmother, Mrs. Cullom, wife of Senator Cullom, presented her to the Washington friends of the family.

Miss Ridgely was educated in Washington at Mrs. Somers' school, and is one of the most attractive of the season's buds. She is bright and witty in conversation and fascinatingly frank in manner.

Mr. Ridgely and his daughter are entertaining a house party this week, their guests being Mr. and Mrs. Nelson O'Shaughnessy, of London; Miss Katherine Williams, of Chicago, and Miss Katherine Earle, of Philadelphia, all of whom will remain over Tuesday for the dance.

Tomorrow afternoon Miss Ridgely will give a small tea to meet her guests.

I Street last evening. These dances, which are of weekly occurrence at the McLean home, are most informal, the young people who take part coming in after the various dinner parties on Saturday evening.

## Chit-Chat.

Hugh Gurney, recently appointed third secretary to the British embassy, arrived in Washington last evening. Mr. Gurney, who is young and a bachelor, will be a welcome addition to social circles in Washington. Mr. Gurney comes here from Vienna.

Mrs. Ella Wheeler Wilcox will spend a part of next week at the New Willard. Where on Thursday she will be pleased to receive her friends.

Representative and Mrs. Huff and Miss Huff will go to Palm Beach this week. Mr. Huff for a short stay, Mrs. Huff and Miss Huff will remain until Easter.

Mrs. Eva McKinney, of Bridgton, Me., is visiting her mother, Mrs. Josephine E. Bradstreet, the artist of the Halls of the Ancients. Mrs. McKinney is the daughter-in-law of the Hon. L. F. McKinney, formerly a Representative in Congress, and later United States minister to Colombia, who is well remembered in social circles here.

Dr. Thomas Hawley Rockwell, of London, is in Washington, the guest of



Mrs. Presley M. Rixey, Wife of the Surgeon General of the Navy.

Mrs. Rixey, wife of Surgeon General Rixey, who is at present attending Senator Hanna, is one of the best-known women of the Navy set in Washington, having spent as much of her life here as it is possible for a woman whose father and husband were both connected with the Navy.

A native of Trenton, she came to

Washington shortly before her marriage to Dr. Rixey. Her father, Admiral Engle, upon his retirement from the Navy, purchased the old Rixey home in Culpeper, where he spent the latter years of his life, and for that reason Mrs. Rixey has often been called a "Southerner," and indeed, justly, as she has both the appearance and manner attributed to the women of the Southland.

General and Mrs. Chaffee, Dr. Rockwell is the brother of Mrs. Chaffee.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Rosewater were among President Roosevelt's callers at the White House yesterday morning. Mr. and Mrs. Rosewater were married in Baltimore on January 27, and have been spending their honeymoon in the Far South.

Mr. Rosewater is managing editor of the "Omaha Bee," and a son of Edward Rosewater, the editor-in-chief of that paper. Mrs. Rosewater was Miss Katie Katz, and is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kaufman Katz, of Baltimore.

## SCHOOLS WILL OBSERVE WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY

Commemorative of Washington's Birthday, exercises will be held in all of the local public schools on February 22. Arrangements for the various schools are in the hands of the members of the Washington Board of Trade. Monday, February 22, being a legal holiday, the observances will be held on Tuesday following, at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon. With a view to getting their consent to take part in the exercises Mr. Farnon, chairman of the board's committee on public schools, is corresponding with all of the members of the board, and wishes their co-operation in order to make the celebration a more successful one than any held in previous years. Realizing that brevity is the soul of wit and that an opportunity should be afforded the pupils to take active part in the commemorative celebration, the speakers will be requested to make the end of their speeches as near as possible to the beginning. The presiding officers have received this request also, and the principal speaker will transcend the bounds of propriety if he engages the attention of the school boys and girls for more than twenty minutes.



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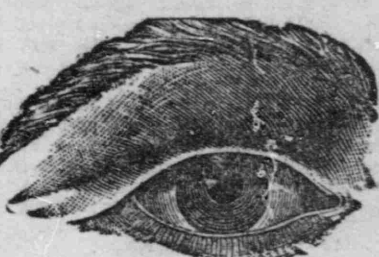
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